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May 20, 2015

Dear Nevada Education Stakeholders,

On July 7, 2014 United States Department of Education (USED) Secretary of Education Arne Duncan introduced the "Excellent Educators for All Initiative." Secretary Duncan states, "...systemic inequities exist that shortchange students in high-poverty, high-minority schools across our country...we must work together to enhance and invigorate our focus on how to better recruit, support and retain effective teachers and principals for students, especially the kids who need them most."

This Initiative calls for the submission of new comprehensive state educator equity plans by June 1, 2015 to ensure equitable access to excellent educators for students from low-income families and students of color. USED also encouraged states to address equity gaps for English learners and students with disabilities. Technical assistance is being provided through this initiative with the new [Equitable Access Support Network](#) and the [Center on Great Teachers and Leaders](#).

Developing the new "Nevada Plan to Ensure Equitable Access to Excellent Educators" has provided the opportunity for the Nevada Department of Education to engage stakeholders in reviewing data, hypothesizing underlying root causes of equity gaps, and identifying state-level solutions to support district equity work. Please take the time to read the DRAFT 2015 Nevada Educator Equity Plan and provide feedback via the Equity Plan Stakeholder Survey. Both are located [HERE](#) on the NDE website and can be accessed through **Tuesday, May 26, 2015**.

I invite you to forward this information to others in your organization encouraging them to participate in the review and **submit the survey on or before May 26, 2015**. Questions about the Nevada Educator Equity Plan may be addressed to Leslie James via email at ljames@doe.nv.gov, with "Nevada Educator Equity Plan" in the subject heading.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dena Durish".

Dena Durish
Director of Educator Effectiveness and Family Engagement